

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02639 200648Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSY-02  
OMB-01 ABF-01 ACDA-12 /082 W  
-----095318 200656Z /13

P R 191639Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6391  
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
OSAF WASHDC PRIORITY  
CSAF WASHDC PRIORITY  
ISA/DSAA WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4/7//  
ASD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH  
AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2639

ODC SENDS

OSAF/DR. MARTIN; ASD/BGEN ABRAHAMSON

E.O.: 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, XG, MILL, MASS, AGAO, DA

REF : GAO REPORT ON THE F-16 (PSAD 78-36)

SUMMARY: THE GAO REPORT ON THE F-16 AIRCRAFT (REFERENCE) WAS  
RELEASED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK AS INSTRUCTED. INITIAL  
REACTIONS TO THE REPORT AND THE MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS RELEASED  
HAVE CAUSED SERIOUS CONCERN AMONG DANISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS. AS  
THE REPORT REACHES OTHER MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND THE PRESS HERE,  
WE CAN EXPECT POINTED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE AIRCRAFT PRODUC-  
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TION PROGRAM AND ANOTHER SEVERE ROUND OF ANTI-F-16 PRESS  
PLAY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GAO REPORT ON THE F-16 AIRCRAFT WAS RELEASED TO AD-  
MIRAL I. B. RODHOLM, DANISH F-16 STEERING COMMITTEE PRINCIPAL,  
AS INSTRUCTED. ADMIRAL RODHOLM'S INITIAL REACTION WAS ONE OF  
DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ORIGINAL COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE GAO;

TO PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT REPORT PRIOR TO RELEASE, WERE NOT KEPT. UPON REVIEW OF THE REPORT, ADMIRAL RODHOLM EXPRESSED REAL CONCERN THAT PRESS REACTION TO PORTIONS OF THE REPORT, WHEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT, WOULD FULLY SUPPORT ANTI F-16 POSITIONS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED IN DANISH MEDIA.

2. DEFENSE OFFICIALS HERE ARE PREPARING A CABLE TO ASSISTANT SEC AF MARTIN, F-16 STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, EXPRESSING THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE APPARENT VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT FOR REVIEW OF THE GAO REPORT PRIOR TO RELEASE. THE CABLE WILL ALSO CONTEST MANY OF THE POINTS MADE IN THE GAO REPORT SUCH AS SURVIVABILITY, COST INCREASES, AND ENGINE PERFORMANCE, AND WILL OBJECT TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THESE FACTORS WERE EXPRESSED IN THE REPORT. IN THE OPINION OF THE DANES, THE REPORT GROSSLY DISTORTS THE FACTS.

3. IN ANTICIPATION OF CRITICAL PRESS HANDLING OF THE REPORT HERE WHEN IT SURFACES, DANISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS ARE PREPARING PREEMPTIVE PRESS CONFERENCE FOR MONDAY OR TUESDAY OF NEXT WEEK. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITION ON THE REPORT AND APPROPRIATE PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE USE BOTH BY THE EMBASSY AND DANISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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